

San Marcos Free Press.

L. H. JULIAN, Editor.

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WAR NEWS.

The following additional particulars of the fall of Plevna have been received: At 9:30 on the morning of the 10th Osman Pasha's entire army attacked the Russian Grenadier Corps holding the line of investment on the left bank of the River Vid, endeavoring to force a passage. The attack was made with desperate energy, and a portion of the Turkish troops did in fact penetrate the line of entrenchments and batteries; but all attempts to break through the positions of the Grenadiers were ineffectual. After five hours' severe fighting the Turks were defeated, and Osman Pasha, surrounded on all sides, was compelled to surrender with his whole army. The number of prisoners taken is placed at 40,000, and 400 guns were captured, while the Russo-Roumanian losses were inconsiderable, compared with the result obtained.

According to official returns the Russian losses in the fighting preceding the surrender of Plevna were 10 officers and 182 men killed and 45 officers and 1,307 men wounded. The Turks lost 4,000 killed and wounded, and the prisoners include 10 Pashas, 128 staff officers, 2,000 officers, 30,000 infantry and 12,300 cavalry. Seventy-seven cannon were also captured. A Berlin dispatch of the 13th says: The Russians are expected to cross the Balkans in force, after which they will be ready to open negotiations. If negotiations are successful the result will be communicated to the signatory powers. Further Russian re-inforcements have been countermanded, the Czar believing the present army is sufficient. The Turkish Parliament convened on the 14th. The speech from the throne was reserved in tone, and alludes neither to peace nor mediation.

According to the London Times correspondent, who received his information direct from the Grand Duke Nicholas, Osman Pasha had at the time of his surrender 10 days' rations for his whole army. The immediate cause of his abandoning the intrenchments was the breaking out of an epidemic among the troops. There were 40 or 50 dead bodies a day in Plevna. There were no men available to bury them, and the mortality was increasing. Eight hundred sick and wounded were in the hospitals. An attack on Erzeroum was momentarily expected, and the British Consul left there on the 13th, in pursuance of the orders of Lord Derby, which is regarded by the Turks as foreshadowing a British declaration of war against Russia. On the 12th, 60 battalions of Turks attacked the forces of Grand Duke Vladimir all along the line, but were repulsed with heavy loss, and driven back to their original positions. A proclamation has been issued, ordering the Serbian army to cross the Turkish frontier.

The Turks burned and evacuated Elena on the 14th, and the Russians have reoccupied it. The Serbians have crossed the frontier at Pivov and are marching on Kossova.

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on the 11th, a large number of petitions were presented—in favor of an amendment to the Constitution so as to prohibit States from disfranchising citizens on account of sex, asking the appointment of a commission to inquire into the alcoholic liquor traffic, etc. Among the more important bills introduced were the following: By Senator Davis of Illinois—To establish a Court of Appeals; by Mr. Padlock—To provide for ascertaining losses sustained by citizens of the United States by reason of Indian depredations, and providing for payment thereof; by Mr. Dorsey—Amendatory of and supplementary to the act to incorporate the Texas Pacific Railroad Company, and to aid in its construction (a copy of the bill introduced in the House by Mr. Stephens); by Mr. Eustis—Appropriating money to open and keep unobstructed the navigation of Red River; Senator Conkling submitted a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of seven Senators to inquire and report whether any and what measures can be devised to promote commercial intercourse with Mexico, and establish a just and peaceful condition of affairs on the border between this country and Mexico; also, authorizing the committee to send for persons and papers, and to visit such places as it may think proper in making such inquiry. Agreed to. Mr. Davis of Illinois presented a petition of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, in favor of the creation of a Department of Agriculture, with a Secretary at the head, who shall be in the Cabinet of the President. Referred. Mr. Maxey, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the resolution of the 14th of November, instructing the committee to inquire and report upon a system of defensive works for the Rio Grande frontier, reported a bill making appropriations for the erection of suitable posts for the protection of the Rio Grande frontier. Placed on the calendar. Mr. Conover, from the select Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard, reported favorably on the Senate bill to provide for the survey of an inland water route and canal from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean. Placed on the calendar. Mr. Padlock, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported with amendments the Senate bill to amend the act to provide for the sale of a portion of the reservation of the Confederated Ute and Mescalero and Sac and Fox tribes of Indians, in the States of Kansas and Nebraska. Placed on the calendar. Consideration was then resumed of the resolution of Senator Matthews, declaring the right of the Government to pay bonds in silver, and Senator Chaffee submitted the following as a substitute: "That all bonds of the United States, issued or authorized to be issued under said acts of Congress heretofore recited, are payable, principal and interest, at the option of the Government, in coin of gold or silver of standard value when such bonds were issued, and to receive to its coinage such silver coin as a legal tender co-equal with gold coin is not in violation of public faith, nor in derogation of the rights of public creditors." Ordered printed. Senator Morgan spoke in favor of the resolution of Senator Matthews, and Senator Christiancy in opposition. The Senate adjourned without action. In the House, Mr. Stephens introduced a bill repealing the iron-clad oath which has to be taken by applicants for pensions. Referred. Mr. Money introduced a bill to authorize the Southern Pacific Railroad Company to extend its railroad and telegraph lines eastward from its present terminus in Arizona to a point on the Rio Grande at or near El Paso, and to aid in building the same. Referred.

In the Senate, on the 12th, after the expiration of the morning hour, consideration was resumed of the resolution of Senator Matthews, declaring the right of the Government to pay bonds in silver, and Senator Chaffee submitted the following as a substitute: "That all bonds of the United States, issued or authorized to be issued under said acts of Congress heretofore recited, are payable, principal and interest, at the option of the Government, in coin of gold or silver of standard value when such bonds were issued, and to receive to its coinage such silver coin as a legal tender co-equal with gold coin is not in violation of public faith, nor in derogation of the rights of public creditors." Ordered printed. Senator Morgan spoke in favor of the resolution of Senator Matthews, and Senator Christiancy in opposition. The Senate adjourned without action. In the House, Mr. Stephens introduced a bill repealing the iron-clad oath which has to be taken by applicants for pensions. Referred. Mr. Money introduced a bill to authorize the Southern Pacific Railroad Company to extend its railroad and telegraph lines eastward from its present terminus in Arizona to a point on the Rio Grande at or near El Paso, and to aid in building the same. Referred.

In the Senate, on the 13th, Senator Voorhees submitted the following resolution, and gave notice that he would call it up Tuesday, January 15, 1878, for the purpose of submitting some remarks thereon: "Resolved, That it is of the highest importance that the financial credit of the Government be maintained, and in order to do so the Government should in all its departments should in good faith keep all its contracts and obligations entered into with its own citizens." At the expiration of the morning hour consideration was resumed of the resolution of Senator Matthews to pay bonds in silver, and Senator Bayard spoke in opposition. Senator Allison presented an amendment to the silver bill, providing for an international conference to establish the relative value of gold and silver. The discussion of Senator Matthews's resolution was further continued, Senators Hill and Dawes opposing and Senator Allison favoring its adoption. The House took up the Colorado contested election case, and after a discussion lasting several hours, the majority report, declaring Patterson (Democrat) elected, was adopted by a vote of 116 yeas to 110 nays, and Mr. Patterson was sworn in, and the House adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 14th, the bill relating to reservoirs to promote the navigation of the Mississippi River passed. Consideration was resumed of the resolution declaring the right of the Government to pay bonds in silver. Senator Hereford spoke in favor thereof, after which the Senate went into executive session. When the doors were reopened, the Deficiency bill was taken up and passed. The Post-route bill was passed. The Vice-President announced as the committee to inquire into the practicability of promoting commercial intercourse with Mexico and maintaining peace on the Rio Grande frontier, and organized under the resolution of Mr. Conkling recently adopted, Messrs. Conkling, Hamlin, Howe, Jones of Nevada, Cameron of Pennsylvania, Eaton and Maxey. In the House, the report of the Conference Committee on Deficiency Appropriation bill was agreed to. The Senate amendments to the Paris Exposition bill were also agreed to. Mr. Wood, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a resolution authorizing various committees to investigate department affairs during the coming recess, with power to send for persons and papers. The Republicans under the lead of Gen. Butler, filibustered to prevent a vote upon the resolution, in which they were successful, and the House adjourned without action. Mr. Garfield, in explaining the Republican opposition to the adoption of the resolution, said that the Ways and Means Committee would have been unanimous in reporting the resolution if that clause authorizing the sending for persons and papers had been omitted.

No business was transacted in the Senate on the 15th. In the House, Mr. Wood made a persistent effort to secure the adoption of the resolution providing for a wholesale investigation of Department affairs during the recess, but the Republicans, by refusing to vote, deprived the House of a quorum, so that it was finally agreed to postpone further action until after the holiday recess. The Committee on Foreign Affairs was empowered to set during the recess in order to investigate the Mexican border troubles. Messrs. Schlicher, Forney, and Williams were appointed a sub-committee to perform this duty. Both houses adjourned, in accordance with concurrent resolution, until January 16.

No Work in England.

Mr. Adam Badeau, United States Consul-General at London, in a dispatch dated the 10th of November, refers to the annual report of the Consul at Manchester, and invites particular attention to his remarks on the influx of workmen from the United States to various points in Great Britain, whether as carpenters to Manchester, masons to London or Glasgow, or miners to Derbyshire, in consequence of a notion spreading among American mechanics that the labor market on the other side of the Atlantic is better than in the United States. Many are thus induced to emigrate, confident of procuring speedy and remunerative employment, and the result is that, unless the mechanic has previously obtained a contract insuring him employment, he finds himself without either money or work. His condition rapidly becomes worse, and he is obliged to part with his clothing in order to obtain food and lodging, until finally he appears at the nearest United States consulate half starved, and with hardly sufficient raiment to cover his nakedness, begging to be sent back to the United States, and is surprised and indignant when informed that no funds are in the Consul's hands for such a purpose. Whatever may be the claims of the applicant for relief, there can be no doubt of the need for it, and no doubt that if given it will afford only temporary consolation, as there is an utter improbability of the stranger obtaining any kind of employment. The Consul-General urges the importance of bringing before American mechanics the improvidence of their course in seeking work from strangers at a distance from home, without having positive assurance that they will be successful, and especially to warn such persons that the consular officers of the United States are not authorized to grant them any relief whatever.

TATTLERS in Frankfurt, Ind., lied about a poor woman so fearfully that she went crazy and left her home. Her husband and children are frantic with grief over her absence.

HERE AND THERE.

THERE are four Miltons in the House—some inglorious but none mute.—Boston Post.

A TRACT of 100,000 acres in Calhoun County, Ala., has been purchased by the Chicago Colonization and Agricultural Company.

MRS. CHIEF JOSEPH is described as "a pretty little black-eyed beauty, with flashing teeth, fine arms and dainty feet."

MRS. POTTER PALMER gave a reception to over 400 friends at the Palmer House, Chicago, the other evening, the cost of which is put down at \$10,000.

A WHITE widow of 45 in Lewis County, New York, with a 20-year-old son, has just married a negro aged 30, as black as the ace of spades.

SELA NUTTER, a colored woman, living near Nantooke, Mass., is said to be 113 years old. She has three children living, the youngest of whom is 70 years of age.

THE huge granite monolith which supports the equestrian statue of Peter the Great at St. Petersburg, Russia, was rolled from Finland on cannon balls.

VERY many of the cross-ties laid on the Union Pacific several years ago have become petrified. So solid are these ties that it is impossible to withdraw the spikes.

ACCORDING to a letter from Bellona, N. Y., to the Rochester Democrat, men, or at least animals that make tracks like men, some 20 feet in height used to live in that vicinity during the early history of the place. Perfectly formed foot-prints 35 inches long have been found in large numbers.

JOSHUA CLEAVES, of Salem, Mass., left property to his "cousin, Nancy H. Rogers of Beverly," but he had two cousins of the name. But, by tracing back the family tree to 1683, it is found that one of the women is a degree nearer than the other, and she will probably get the bequest.

ACCORDING to the English Meat and Provisions Trade Review, beef can be bought in Belgrade at two cents per pound, and forwarded to London, by express train in six days or less, at a cost of one and a half cents a pound. Fat pigs can be bought at five cents per pound, and lambs at \$5 per score.

THE State of Iowa practically has no debt. It has outstanding in war bonds \$300,000, due in 1888, which the holders refuse to surrender. There is also due on the permanent school fund a little over \$100,000, which was borrowed; but the State is able to pay her debts at any time.

THE latest performance in London, and one which draws a salary of \$500 per week, is the startling feat of Zagel, a young girl, who dives through the air and lands in a net 90 feet below. She drops head first, but gently and gracefully swerves in her flight until at last she strikes on her back in the net and arises unharmed.

THIRTY years ago a woman in Ful-tonville, N. Y., put \$17 away that it might be needed some day when old age made it necessary for her to cease work. A few days ago she took the money from its hiding-place in the toe of an old stocking and started out to make some purchases, but not one cent's worth could she get; her money was worthless. The banks had either failed or been wound up, and the currency was irredeemable.

EVERY Turkish regiment is amply provided with intrenching tools (carried in carts), and in an hour, on fair ground, it will make its position formidable, a slope always being chosen. Their trenches are semicircular, two small ones in front, each holding 50 men; 100 yards behind, three large semicircles or segments (the center one a little in the rear of the other two, as a reserve trench; 100 yards in rear again, the main trench, giving four feet of cover vertically, and not more than one and one-half feet broad, containing the rest of the regiment.

A NEW use has been found for the telephone. Since it was introduced into several mines for the purpose of communicating between the men at work below the surface and the officers of the companies above ground, it has occurred to somebody connected with one of the mines that it could be used to advantage in indicating the ventilation of the mines themselves. The circulation of air in the mines is shown by the anemometer, which is situated below. The miners have fallen into the way of being careless as to the ventilation. But now it has been found possible, by attaching the telephone to the anemometer below, to indicate the flow of air in the mine in the office of the company above. It is proposed shortly to try experiments to see whether the telephone can be made available in divers operations. It is believed that the instrument may be attached to the armor or divers, and

be made a perfect means of communication between them and their assistants.

FRANCE, after a long indifference to Indian corn, is now awakening to its value as food for horses, in lieu of the more expensive wheat and barley. Several horse railway companies in Havre feed their animals on the corn, coarsely ground and mingled with chopped straw and hay, and a small proportion of roots. Livery stables have also adopted the feed. One stable proprietor, who controls 150 horses, states that he saved 35,000 francs (\$7,000) last year by using Indian corn. The example of Havre is gradually being followed elsewhere. Europeans are slow to change their customs.

"OLD FRANK" is a hunting-dog that used to hang around the newspaper offices of St. Joseph. Mr. Joseph Crane took "Old Frank" to his house. Mr. Crane had an old hen, with seven or eight chickens that had been hatched out a couple of weeks. For some cause the unnatural mother deserted her offspring, and for nearly a day they wandered around unprotected. The dog noticed the helpless condition of the young brood, and he immediately took them under his wing; and he has since continued to care for them in the most affectionate manner, leading them around in the daytime and curling himself around them at night. The chickens are doing well, and seem perfectly contented with their new protector.

THERE are two large Mennonite settlements in the province of Manitoba. One of these is known as the Red River Reservation, comprising a tract of eight townships, which contain an aggregate of about 174,000 acres. Within the bounds of this reserve are 32 villages, with a population of nearly 4,000. The tract lies east of the Red River, and begins about 22 miles east of Winnipeg. The other reservation lies west of the Red River, and is known as the Dufferin Reserve. It adjoins the boundary line between Manitoba and the Territory of Dakota, and extends eastward to within a short distance of the river. It consists of 17 townships, containing over 370,000 acres, 18 villages, and about 2,600 inhabitants. In addition to these two settlements, a few Mennonites have settled on the Scratching River, a few miles south of Winnipeg. The population of the last named settlement is about 200.

In the matter of production the Californian is peculiar. He will plant from a hundred to five hundred acres in grain, and purchase his table vegetables from a neighbor. He will pasture a herd of cattle, and rely upon the peddler for the milk that supplies his family. He will go abroad for goods that he could as well manufacture at home. And thus it goes, through numerous of the branches of trade. One of the anomalies in this respect is noticed by the San Diego Union. The climate and soil of San Diego are admirably adapted to the cultivation of the lemon, and many of the gardens of the city contain an abundance of the fruit, but it is not put upon the market, in which lemons are worth \$1 per dozen, and which is supplied by the imported article. This leads the Union to inquire: "Why should California import lemons 12,500 miles, and pay a duty on the same, when enough can be raised in California to supply the whole United States?"

A Sad Case in Boston.

Here is a sad story of the bitter days which came at last on the son of a Boston millionaire, as told by a city paper: "An old tramp, with his face shrunken with hunger, was overturning the contents of an oil wagon on Main Street, Tuesday afternoon, trying to fish out a lunch, when a policeman came along and asked: 'Why don't you go to work sawin' wood, or diggin' clams, or somethin' and earn enough to git you a square meal, and not be stuffin' yourself with unwholesome garbage? Bimeby, afore you know it, you'll be dead, and the city'll have to send you to the Brighton abattoir.' The old outlaw stepped down to the sidewalk, and as he wiped his tangled whiskers he said: 'Pretty tough times, boss, when er man hez ter get his wittles out of er swill wagon! I haint used to sich business as this, and don't you forgit it; my father was one of the richest men on this continent once; he owned more'n half the City of Boston, and I was brought up in the lap of luxury, as it were; I graduated at Harvard College, and I knowed 20 different languages; I knowed all about astronomy; I could tell ye how fur the planets Satan, Versuvius, Jupiter, and Venice was from the earth, and could repeat the whole bible from the first chapter of Adam clear through to the landing of Noah's ark on Plymouth Rock.' Then the policeman looked as if he was going to drop down, for a moment, then he rallied and struck across the street, muttering: 'Well, I swear, I never heard any thing to equal that for ignorance, never.'"

The Oddest Kind of a Lawsuit.

Only the keenest sense of injured justice or severe financial straits, it would seem, could induce a fond uncle to sue his favorite niece's grandmother for the cost of her wedding trousseau, now laid away in lavender these four years back. But this is what Uncle Dick Morgan of Bloomington, Ill., whose niece Ella is the wife of a son of ex-Gov. Beveridge, has done in the court at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., the grandmother in the case being Mrs. Rutzer, a resident of Kingston, who is also Mr. Morgan's mother-in-law. Ella, while yet in her teens, went to live with Uncle Dick, and he seems to have been kind and she dutiful. She was also handsome, and, during the heyday bloom of her 18 years, while riding on the cars one day, she attracted the attention of ardent young Philo Beveridge. Although Ella was poor and Philo was duly warned of the fact, he laudably asserted that it was only Ella's own sweet self that he wanted. Mutual love threw apace, the course thereof was unmarred by serious ripples, and four years ago golden bells chimed their sweetest for the marriage ceremony. If Ella was a poor girl, Uncle Dick and Grandmother Rutzer vowed that she should have a swell wedding, any how, and they all went on to New York together to buy the outfit. Uncle Dick agreed to pay the wedding-day expenses if Grandmother Rutzer would buy the garments, and this arrangement was apparently agreed to. On arriving at Stewart's, however, Mrs. Rutzer found that, owing to the Black Friday panic, the cautious Scotch merchant was refusing all his customers credit, and, not having the needful money with her, she borrowed of her son-in-law, giving in part payment a note for \$1,000. Then Mr. Morgan went off on a business trip to Boston, and the ladies revelled in the purchase of the endless feminine fripperies and general unsubstantial that go to make up a fashionable bridal trousseau. The dressmaker's bill alone footed up \$600, and altogether \$2,000 were melted down in that day's shopping. The grandmother had truly been generous, and Uncle Dick was equally kind and lavish in the details of the wedding ceremony itself. This was conducted at Bloomington in the most elegant manner; over 600 guests were present and royally entertained, both at Mr. Morgan's private residence and at the hotel, which was thrown open to their exclusive use. And now, four years after, when she was made a bride with so much eclat has presumed settled down into the demure wife, with babies at her knee, this unpleasantness of the wedding trousseau pops out of the family skeleton closet, to the amusement of the public and the vexation of the parties immediately concerned. Grandmother Rutzer stoutly declares that she "disremembers" any agreement to pay for her granddaughter's wedding fixings, says she never had any such intention, and that Uncle Dick alone is responsible for the bills. The latter, provoked past endurance with the old lady, enters suit to recover, and meanwhile a gossip-loving public revels in the sweet morsel afforded it.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

A Horrible Death.

An accident of a shocking nature occurred Saturday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at the Valley Paper Mill, at Verona, on the Allegheny Valley Railroad. A young woman named Mary Ann Collins, who had been employed in the mill three or four years, had been assigned to a new position on the second story, in which there is a large trap-door immediately over a vat on the ground floor. At the time stated Miss Collins had been called over from another part of the room, by a companion, to assist in dumping a box of rags. She started to answer the call and walked into the open hatchway, which was obscured by steam rising from the vat, which contained boiling water and vitriol. She was precipitated directly into the vat, and must have died very speedily. In three minutes after she fell her body was taken out scalded white. It seems that she had a premonition of death in this manner, and had remarked several times that the vat would be the death of her. The Coroner held an inquest, and the Jury found a verdict of death by accident. The deceased was 16 years of age, and resided in the vicinity of the mill.—Pittsburg Commercial.

SAYS a Washington correspondent: "When Congress adjourns, about 4 p. m., the members all walk to their places of residence. This adds zest to the pleasure of walking from the West End and meeting en masse this distinguished body of men. Some are admired, others criticised and a few denounced. But all possess power, and are reverently addressed, especially by those who are seeking favor."